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ABSTRACT

In 1990-91 three public forums were held on problems related to child care in the Delaware Valley, Pennsylvania. Over 100 people, including parents, employers, child care professionals, government representatives, and community and labor leaders, gave testimony on the public sector's responsibility for day care and the monies being spent on child care. Three major issues were evident throughout the testimony: quality of services, affordability of services, and accessibility for parents. Corresponding recommendations wer: (1) improved licensing and monitoring systems; (2) professional wages for professional teachers; (3) increased provider reimbursement rates; (4) implementation of a single graduated eligibility scale and fee structure based on parents' income; (5) coordination of Pennsylvania's five separate funding streams; and (6) improved resource and referral services. This summary report presents excerpts from the testimony at the three forums, categorized by the issue addressed. Lists of forum participants are also provided. (AC)

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What Are Public Dollars Buying In Day Care?

What Should Public Dollars Be Buying In Day Care?

Testimony Summary Report

from

PHILADELPHIA, BUCKS/MONTGOMERY, and CHESTER/DELAWARE

PUBLIC FORUMS

1990 - 1991

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SUMMARY

The Delaware Valley Child Care Council held three public forums during the winter of 1990 through the spring of 1991. The forums provided an opportunity to parents, employers, child care professionals, government representatives, community and labor leaders to come together to state the problems and explore solutions for day care. Over 100 people gave testimony which addressed the public sector's responsibility and what is actually being spent on child care.

Three major issues with six recommendations were evident throughout the testimony presented:

QUALITY of services
- Improve licensing and monitoring systems
- Professional wages for professional teachers

AFFORDABILITY of services
- Increase provider reimbursement rates
- One graduated parent income eligibility scale and fee structure

ACCESSIBILITY for parents
- Coordination of funding streams
- Need for resource and referral services

This report contains excerpts of the testimony from citizens who say it best...

> We want a system in which teachers and aides can claim serious vocation; wages and benefits reflect the importance of the work performed, adequate training is required and valued; and long-term commitment is presumed. So never decry the public school system for paying fair wages to their teachers. We should be giving those kind of wages and benefits. It should be a career for people. - Minister

> I work 60 hours each week. I work, because I care about raising my child right. I had child care that cost about $70 per week (which is very reasonable), and I made $3 above the limit for child care assistance, so I had to leave my job because I couldn't afford the child care - Parent

> There are a lot of people who are on welfare that want to do something with their lives but the programs don't click. It's like nobody sits down at the same table together and discusses what their programs are doing. - Parent

> I'm here to advocate that the government, communities, and businesses form a vital partnership in order to be able to deliver high quality and affordable child care to our future citizens. - Employer

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INTRODUCTION

The Delaware Valley Child Care Council is a non-profit organization composed of parents, child care providers, professionals, and government, labor, community, and business leaders advocating for the regional development of quality, affordable, accessible child care for all children and families who seek such services. DVCCC was founded in 1986 as a partnership of these varied interests working together as a problem-solving forum for child care issues.

Since 1988 much of the Council's effort has concentrated on child care funding issues. Our Cost Sharing Plan outlined a cooperative solution to this crisis which involved parents and the public and private sectors sharing child care costs. After two years of work with the Cost Sharing Plan as the foundation, the Council identified the need for public input on child care funding. Three Public forums were held to solicit this public comment. The timing of these forums by the Council was critical for two reasons. First, in 1990, Pennsylvania initiated demonstrations of the Local Management Agency system for the administration of Title XX child care monies. This new system has had and continues to have a significant impact on families and children as they seek subsidized care and on child care centers as they struggle for financial viability. Second, the reality of new federal funds through the Child Care and Development Block Grant meant that Pennsylvania's child care system (with its five separate sets of funding streams, intake procedures and funding distribution methods) could have an opportunity for major revisions.

The first Public Forum was held in Philadelphia. Citizens from across the Southeastern Pennsylvania region attended and gave testimony about their experiences. The two subsequent forums, in Norristown for Bucks and Montgomery Counties and in Media for Chester and Delaware Counties, were planned to provide opportunities for more people throughout the region to testify. In all, these three Public Forums were attended by over 200 people and over 100 people gave testimony either orally or by submitting written comments. The broad spectrum of testifiers included parents, child care professionals, government officials, employers, labor representatives, community leaders, and children's advocates who each addressed the questions of what public day care dollars are and should be buying.

Community leaders knowledgeable in child care issues and dilemmas volunteered as panelists to hear testimony at each forum. Further, volunteer moderators helped to progress the forums' agendas. For their support and expertise, especially as testimony, questions, and answers became emotionally charged, the Council is grateful. The panelists, in conjunction with the Council's Public Policy Committee, analyzed the transcripts. Three major issues emerged: quality; affordability; and accessibility.

This Summary Report of the testimony presents statements which describe child care needs in the words of the many individuals who spoke out at the three Public Forums. The statements are categorized by the issues to which they relate. This Report is the Council's effort to document the scope of child care needs and to begin to develop solutions to these needs. We hope, further, that this Report will stimulate community wide problem-solving of these critical child care needs. The following are the excerpts from the testifiers arranged according to the three issues...

QUALITY OF SERVICES

Improve licensing and monitoring systems

Licensing is meaningless without adequate staffing to back it up. In our area there is a four to six month wait for an initial site visit.

Denise Dowell, Director, Restoration Nursery School, Philadelphia

Quality child care programs are the result of careful planning and regulation.

Sara Syen, President,
Day Care Association of Montgomery County, Inc.

I recommend staff in licensing agencies with no more than 55 centers or 100 family day care homes per licensor.

Susan S. Aronson, M.D., American Academy of Pediatrics

There are several factors that the Urban League believes are crucial to the development of quality child care. Some of these are the strengthening of the state regulations and enhanced monitoring and enforcement of safety standards by DPW. Quality child care, care which nurtures the healthy development of the child's mind, body, social skills, and self-esteem is a goal which we (Local Management Agency) all share.

Robert Sorrell, President, The Urban League, Philadelphia

One of the needed additions to the Local Management Agency system is a provision for some kind of monitoring of facilities into which children are being placed.

Carol F. Weisel, Director, Room to Grow Child Care Centers,
Delaware County

The government body currently is actually encouraging public money to be spent on child care that is of unknown quality. There are no regular inspections by DPW of family day care homes since the registration system replaced the licensing system in Pennsylvania in 1981. Providers not affiliated with a family day care agency are unscreened, unmonitored, untrained, and unsupported. This system offers parents no assurance whatsoever of any protection for their children.

Anthony Diodati, Assistant Executive Director,
Associated Day Care Services, Philadelphia

Regional offices need more staff for licensing and monitoring.

Sue Anne Grier, Director,
Delaware County Local Management Agency

I find that a lot of women don't know the (English) language and sometimes they don't know what to do or how to go about it to get the licensing.

Nilda Cotto, Family Day Care Provider,
Hunting Park Community Development Corporation, Philadelphia

As day care becomes a service needed by large numbers of working women, the State's response to meeting demand was an easing of standards. So we now have many centers operating that could never have been licensed 15 years ago.

Arnold Sulby, Executive Director,
Associated Day Care Services, Philadelphia

As a practicing pediatrician, I see young children with increased illnesses not only because of inclement weather conditions, but due to day care facilities that many times are unable to give definite adequate environmental care.

Arthur Lipschutz, M.D., Pediatrician

The regulations need to be rewritten by those people who are in the trenches, because the present regulations are not based in reality. The fact is that it is nearly impossible to make any kind of money in the day care business if you are following regulations laid down by the Department of Public Welfare, Labor and Industry, Department of Public Health, PennDOT, Department of Education, and your local township. It took me eight months with zoning officers, inspectors, insurance agents, state representatives, attorneys, accountants, vendors, and contractors to open our center. To make a profit, you have to break the rules. You have to understaff; you have to over-enroll; you have to under-supply. There's a lot of ways to do it, a lot of very visible ways and very non-visible ways; and it's done every day. It's the kids who suffer in the end.

Donna Maxwell, Owner/Director,
Evergreen Child Development Center, Bucks County

We need money for monitors to be able to visit each day care site in Pennsylvania and to maintain a safe, healthy environment for our children. We need safe day care for our children.

Joyce Lake, Parent, Philadelphia

I have been employed as a worker in permanent and part-time positions in some 20 centers both in England and the U.S.; four of which have been excellent, the rest of which ranged from mediocre to downright appalling and frankly I'm angry and I'm fed up.

Jane Pescow, School Age Program Supervisor,
Federation Day Care Services, Philadelphia

QUALITY OF SERVICES

Professional Wages for Professional Teachers

Day care staff are underpaid, leading to high turnover.
Timothy Brown, Child Care Activist, Parent, Bucks County

In an effort to provide quality child care the school district has given parity for child care staff equal to other educational staff.
Ernestine Redd, Director, Comprehensive Day Care Program,
Philadelphia School District

We want a system in which teachers and aides can claim serious vocation; wages and benefits reflect the importance of the work performed, adequate training is required and valued; and long term commitment is presumed. So never decry the public school system for paying fair wages to their teachers. We should be giving those kind of wages and benefits. It should be a career for people.
Richard Fernandez, Minister, United Church of Christ

Recently, my nieces and nephews have graduated from high school and when I am told starting salaries in other fields, I find they are higher than mine despite my excellent credentials and 40 years of service in day care. In good conscience, I cannot tell anyone to join this field if they need to support themselves or a family.
Gloria Falotico, Teacher, Franklin Day Nursery Center, Philadelphia

...there are few subsidized slots for children, but there are a few non-subsidized centers run by good, committed women who attempt to offer services by charging $50 per week or less. It's hard to imagine how they're able to provide care, except that they subsidize the care themselves through their low wages and lack of benefits.
Sharon Easterling Morton, Director,
Preschool Project, Philadelphia

I was a day care provider at The Lighthouse for 10-1/2 years. I left The Lighthouse with three years of college background from Temple University. My last salary was $13,800.
Luis Rivera, former teacher, The Lighthouse, Philadelphia

Quality staff who are able to earn a living and have benefits might well stay with the programs, helping bring stability and constancy to this vulnerable population.
C. Gayle Lawrence, Day Care Administrator,
Chester County Children and Youth Services,
Comprehensive Child Care Program

We need these qualified people (to care for our children).
Morraye Coleman, Parent, Philadelphia

"I don't want anybody watching my kid who earns $4.75 an hour." (From conference of child care advocates.) The exact amount per hour may change, but the facts don't. We don't pay enough. We encourage transiency.

Shelley Yanoff, Director,
Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth

We're having a lot of trouble getting services of the quality that we need to get.

Linda Katz, Director, Children's Literacy Initiative

You know you can't hire teachers at what we pay. If you're going to pay a teacher a decent salary, you need to meet that salary.

Norman C. Finkel, Executive Director,
Federation Day Care Services, Philadelphia

What seems to make the most difference in quality from one program to another is the degree of professionalism and salary of staff. Care givers who are valued as professionals and who are paid professional wages feel better about themselves and provide better care for children. As a society we should feel angry and ashamed that people who care for and educate our children make less than cashiers, bricklayers or garbage collectors, none of whom require a formal education.

Debbie Levin, Coordinator of Early Childhood Education,
Montgomery County Community College

I'm involved with children, I get down on the floor with children. The rate that I get paid is lower than what I could ever live on. I mean, its minimum wage and I can't personally deal with that.

Stacy Cossaboon, Student, Montgomery County Community College

What do we consider to be quality care? First and foremost it is finding educationally qualified, dedicated, loving care givers to work with the children. That means offering competitive salaries and benefit packages to attract and retain our staff.

Sarah Syen, President,
Day Care Association of Montgomery County, Inc.

Because of the inability to raise the salaries of young people working in day care, there is very high turnover.

Ethel Smiley, Director, Freedom House Child Care, Delaware County

As day care professionals it's time we were recognized as such, oust those who can't hack it, respect and pay those who can, and to the women and men of day care I say, "Let's find our strength and really start caring about our kids and our profession!"

Jane Pescow, School Age Program Supervisor,
Federation Day Care Services, Philadelphia

Because of the quality of the teachers at the (Union Fidelity Child Development) Center, along with their genuine loving and caring affection for our children I feel very lucky. I feel lucky because I was able to provide my son with a healthy, secure and stable environment while I am working.

Janice Janthor, Parent, Bucks County

We have competitive starting salaries, a full benefits package, personal days, sick time off with pay, tuition reimbursement, reimbursement for CPR classes, first-aid classes, and child development competency, and we also have teacher appreciation days that parents provide for the teachers. In order to have these well-educated quality day care providers, their salaries and benefits are covered by the company.

Pattijo Schaffer, Director,
Union Fidelity Child Development Center, Bucks County

Hopefully, it will not take the same amount of time that it has to realize that we have to pay teachers from K through 12 at decent living salaries so that we can pay day care professionals, and they are professionals, a decent living salary. I can't count on my hands the number of day care teachers that I saw drop out simply because they could not make ends meet on the salaries they were paying.

John C. Fekety, Esq., Parent, Delaware County

I worked for about five years as an assistant teacher and a head teacher at Tick Tock Day Care Center that Mrs. Carpenter is now the director of. I ended up leaving there because after two years of not receiving a raise; I asked for ten cents which they couldn't give me, so I had to leave. This system cannot continue to operate by asking the direct care givers, either family day care or center workers, to provide an additional subsidy via their wages.

Ben Quintana, Intake Worker,
Chester County Comprehensive Day Care Program

I ask that legislators direct much needed funds towards teachers' salaries and enrichment. Without these dedicated people and their hard work, quality, and I repeat, quality day care would not and could not exist. Fundamental to a child's healthy development is a secure and consistent environment. At our agency, a high school graduate will make $4.75 an hour; if you have one to three years of college, you would make $5.25 an hour; college graduates, not in the education field, make $6.00 an hour. And those that have a degree in elementary education or early childhood education make a ceiling of $7.00 an hour.

Penni Starer, Director, Kehillah Early Learning Center,
Delaware County

AFFORDABILITY OF SERVICES

Increase provider reimbursement rates

Increase subsidized rates to Transitional Child Care reimbursement rates.
Sue Anne Grier, Director,
Delaware County Local Management Agency

There is no real choice when the majority of centers cannot afford to take on subsidized families and when those who have traditionally served subsidized families are in danger of closing because their spaces go unfilled. The maximum reimbursement rate fails to cover the full cost of care at many centers.
Denise Dowell, Director, Restoration Nursery School, Philadelphia

Pennsylvania has attempted to meet the need for more child care by lowering standards for what good care of children should be rather than providing needed funds. In 1974 we received $15.96 per day to care for a child in our pre-school centers. We now receive $14.58 per day.
Arnold Sulby, Executive Director,
Associated Day Care Services, Philadelphia

The Urban League agrees that state child care subsidies and overall allocation for provision of child care services in Philadelphia County is inadequate.
Robert Sorrell, President, The Urban League, Philadelphia

All the subsidies for child care under Title XX in Montgomery County have been allocated. There is a waiting list for funds as they become available.
Bette Ann Binstead, Co-Chair, Child Care Study,
League of Women Voters of Lower Merion/Narberth

Our public dollars must be used to increase the per diem rate for Title XX child care, to raise the salaries of child care workers, and to provide on-going training of workers.
Pat Schogel, Director, The Lighthouse, Philadelphia

Without a subsidy, that is, public dollars, you can't provide quality day care at affordable fees.
Norman S. Finkel, Executive Director,
Federation Day Care Services, Philadelphia

We encourage the Department (of Public Welfare) to make a further commitment to secure services in low-income communities by funding contracts at an adequate level.
Etheria Brown,
Day Care Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania

I'm here to tell you that we're going to be out of business in six months. We have a small day care center for 25 children. I started it with my own money... I don't have the money to advertise. Most people who need us can't afford us.

Donna Maxwell, Owner/Director,
Evergreen Child Development Center, Bucks County

The combination of federal expansion for both child care and Head Start will enable Pennsylvania to greatly enhance the current services to young children and their families.

Elizabeth Milder Beh,
Advisor to the Governor on Child Care Policy

Pennsylvania's combined Federal and State dollars are not at all reflective of the real cost of providing quality day care. And yet the Title XX guidelines restrict providers from imposing additional costs and passing those on to parents. The contribution from government should recognize the real costs of providing quality care.

Ernestine Redd, Director, Comprehensive Day Care Program,
School District of Philadelphia

We have found that these subsidies do not cover the actual costs of child care. Providers must somehow make up the difference between subsidy and cost.

Bette Ann Binstead, Co-Chair Child Care Study,
League of Women Voters of Lower Merion/Narberth

And the bottom line is that we're trying to provide the best quality care that we can. We're doing so on a very limited budget, and part of the problem is that the subsidy that we receive per child is nearly $4.30 per day short of what it costs us to provide the care. So what's happening is the private side is subsidizing the subsidized side. We can do that for a period of time, but we don't want to offer mediocre care, and we're not sure how long we can continue to do that.

Linda Carpenter, Director,
Tick Tock Day Care Center, Chester County

I believe that a good quality day care with a nurturing atmosphere is vital for any child who must be in day care while their parent works. I believe that the funding that is available should be used to give qualified, state-inspected, registered family day care providers higher (reimbursement) rates. Currently, after taking out program operation costs, I am being reimbursed $7.47 a day per child. This calculates to be ten hours a day at 75 cents an hour.

Kim Brown, Family Day Care Provider, Chester County

These day care centers are operating on an absolute shoe-string budget, and the Government, by increasing Title XX funding, should do so much more to increase and enhance the quality of day care.

Barbara Sivek, Assistant to Vice Chairman, Shared Medical Systems

Our program might be expanding but that doesn't mean that maybe I can take more families. With expansion comes expenses, and Title XX is so below costs.

Zachary Paul Kramer, Director, Children's Education Center, Delaware County

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has made an effort to address the needs of children. The effort is small in comparison to the needs of children, families, and child care providers. This is especially true when the commitment of the families and the providers to high quality programs is considered.

Robert Gundling, Family Service Director, Main Line YMCA, Delaware County

Mothers come to our center daily asking for subsidized child care. They are ready to start jobs and need affordable care for their children. Our center loses money every day on every Title XX child. The way to continue to provide quality care for these children is to raise reimbursement rates.

Patricia Stoughton, Director, West Chester Area Day Care Center, Chester County

AFFORDABILITY OF SERVICES

One graduated Parent income eligibility scale and fee structure

We support the State initiative to revise eligibility guidelines.
Sue Anne Grier, Director,
Delaware County Local Management Agency

I am only able to afford child care for one child at my current salary.
Sondra Jackson, Parent, Philadelphia

My gross monthly salary is $8.00 above the allowable scale which has not been revised in 10 years. I propose that the wage scale be revised upward; that the top of the scale be feathered so there is a less abrupt elimination of eligibility; and that the scale itself have a cost of living increase each year. I realize that while our children's well-being should be our uppermost concern, as day care costs skyrocket, it becomes increasingly difficult to accommodate the unaffordable cost of high standards.
Marylou Jovinelli, Parent, Delaware County

The eligibility guidelines have not been raised in nine years. Families who earn just above minimum wage now find themselves ineligible for Title XX.
Ernestine Redd, Director, Comprehensive Day Care Program,
School District of Philadelphia

A group we work with are grandparents who are very often suddenly thrust with children, young babies, that have been exposed to cocaine. These grandparents are forced to seek child care and they're often not eligible for subsidies. One of the criteria for subsidized care, as we understand it, is based upon the family's income as opposed to the child's income. We are asking that someone look at the rules for subsidized child care.
Norma Latham, Street Outreach Program,
Maternity Care Coalition, Philadelphia

Subsidized child care fee schedules are terribly outdated. A huge abyss exists between subsidized parent fees and the private marketplace. Shock and outrage are not uncommon expressions when re-determinations are done and the families, through a minuscule income increase, are no longer eligible.
C. Gayle Lawrence, Day Care Administrator,
Chester County Children and Youth Services,
Comprehensive Child Care Program

I've used subsidized day care for two years and now I'm facing being terminated because of a raise. It's like a punishment that you try to save money.
Michelle Siegfried, Parent, Montgomery County

People cannot work because their salary is not high enough to cover child care expenses.
Eileen DiFranco, R.N., School Nurse, Philadelphia

Broadening eligibility should be combined with a sliding fee scale, thus requiring that parents pay a portion of the cost of care in keeping with their income.

Norman S. Finkel, Executive Director,
Federation Day Care Services, Philadelphia

This is not a system any more that meets its goal of enabling a family to become self-sufficient by providing a sliding fee scale that moves them gradually into paying as their income goes up. It's a system that pushes them off a cliff. This does not meet the goal of helping people become self-sufficient.

Connie Whitson, Executive Director,
Montgomery County Office of Child Day Care Services

In many areas of Philadelphia and the suburbs there are no opportunities for affordable after-school programs.

Sister Marie Bambrick, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

The reality is that families are no longer eligible for subsidization. The cost of living has not been static for the last eleven years, but according to our government, the household income thresholds for subsidy have needed no adjustment to keep up with the times. Few families who need access to child care can afford it on the commercial market. Families (from our program), when discharged and ready to live independently, still do not have enough income to cope with the staggering cost of child care. They earned just a little too much after our special training and help to be eligible for child care subsidies. It borders on the unethical for us to perpetuate the myth that if families just work hard enough, look good enough, and run fast enough, they will achieve the American dream.

Connie Karasow, Executive Director, Libertae, Inc.

If you have a sliding scale without any limits whatsoever, but the proportion of your subsidy is in proportion to your income, then many more people will be served; it's a much more equitable system.

Gregory Gore, Executive Director,
Apple Day Care (Bucks County Local Management Agency)

I am very upset about the government's subsidized guidelines. Since my son, Preston, was born I have had to quit jobs, and have had my pay cut to be able to have my son in day care.

Michelle Queenan, Parent, Montgomery County

My eligibility was reviewed, and because they only consider the number of people in the family and don't take into consideration the number of children in day care, I was no longer eligible based on my family size without looking at the fact that I had to now provide day care for three children on my own, which I couldn't afford.

Katie Cash, Parent, Montgomery County

I can tell you that there are hundreds of people in Katie (Cash's) situation that end up giving up good jobs because they can't make ends meet when they cross that threshold and lose that day care assistance. It seems to me the system should be structured to encourage recipients of assistance to become self-sufficient and not to reject advancement or jobs that cause their earnings to exceed a certain threshold which has no relationship to the increases they have earned.

Bruce McKelvy, Vice President Human Resources,
Harleysville Insurance Co., Montgomery County

The system in Pennsylvania, mainly the department of Public Welfare regulations for day care, has not allowed for change and growth in parent's income in eight years. There has not been a cost of living adjustment to the fee scale, so that if I was making the same salary I am making now ten years ago, I'd be paying the same fee. My expenses exceed my income by about 30% now, and if I get a 2% raise in income I'll have to go off subsidized day care.

Caryl Tlapa, Parent, Delaware County

These (subsidized child care parent income eligibility) guidelines went into effect in 1983. So (after) an eight-year period with zero percent increase for the cost of living, the woman's allowed to make $14,160 (per year to qualify for subsidized child care).

James Walsh, President, Great Valley Day Care Association,
Chester County

You know, doing the (parent income) eligibilities, I tire of trying to explain to a single parent with one child why he or she does not qualify for any assistance if they work 40 hours a week. Let me break it down for you, at $6.81 an hour, Title XX will no longer help ($6.81 per hour at 40 hours per week earns a salary too high for Title XX eligibility).

Ben Quintana, Intake Worker,
Chester County Comprehensive Day Care Program

I receive Title XX and every time I get even a slight raise (my child care provider) calls me up and changes everything around. There's nothing I can do about (making sure that my child still has quality child care which I can afford).

Caridad Rivera, Parent, Chester County

I work 60 hours each week. I work, because I care about raising my child right. I had child care that cost about $70 per week (which is very reasonable), and I made $3 above the limit for child care assistance, so I had to leave my job because I couldn't afford the child care.

Deborah McConnell, Parent, Chester County

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PARENTS

Coordination of funding streams

Dependable funding is not available in Philadelphia. Our administration wants to institute wrap-around services by Head Start but has no guarantee of funding.

William Thomas, Assistant Director,
Philadelphia Parent Child Center

Government cannot continue a system of public and private day care which offers no consistency of care, differing in quality and costs.

Ernestine Redd, Director, Comprehensive Day Care Program,
Philadelphia School District

Collecting payment (from government agencies) after (the child care) service is rendered constitutes a hardship for programs which operate on bare-bones budgets that rely on payment of fees in advance.

Denise Dowell, Director, Restoration Nursery School, Philadelphia

Ours is a totally voluntary program and we receive no funding of any significance from any government agency. We endeavor to house homeless families from the local suburbs and we are heavily dependent upon receiving emergency child care funds. When a family comes into our program, child care funds are used to pay for the care of the children so that the parents can be free to seek employment in order to get back on their feet. Without these funds we would have no means to care for the children, which, of course, would hinder parents in their efforts to apply for employment thereby reinforcing homelessness rather than helping to alleviate it.

Grace Montemayor, Board of Directors, Interfaith of Ambler,
Montgomery County

It can be daunting to even the most able day care staff to understand how to make use of various publicly funded subsidy programs. Those programs which do receive public dollars face confusing administrative requirements in the current system which funds programs on a reimbursement basis.

Richard Fernandez, Minister, United Church of Christ

There are a lot of people who are on welfare that want to do something with their lives but the programs don't click. It's like nobody sits down at the same table together and discusses what their programs are doing.

Constance Smith, Parent, Delaware County

You can be sure that I will work very aggressively to ensure that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania does not impose unnecessary restrictions on the availability of child care. It means nothing for the federal government to provide the dollars, to provide the programs, if those programs and dollars have conditions that make it difficult, if not impossible, for families in need to take advantage of child care services.

State Representative Curtis Thomas, District 181

The emergency shelter child care program has been valuable to many mothers and their children. This program, which is available through Montgomery County Office of Child Day Care Services, provides short-term child care to homeless preschool children who are living in the shelter. Due to the transitory population of the shelter, life at Laurel House can be very chaotic at times. The child care setting provides a structure and consistency that is often lacking in the shelter. As a result, the children who go to child care appear more relaxed and at ease with their mothers.

Jill Hassinger, Children's Program Coordinator,
Laurel House, Montgomery County

Before I became part of the Teen Age Parents program (a program which helps Montgomery County teen parents complete their high school education), I was bouncing back and forth between babysitters, and I was putting out a lot of money that I didn't have. I have had a chance to finish my education which I might not have had before.

Paulette Vincent, Parent, Montgomery County

One of the most important things we provide for the teen parents is child care, and I really appeal to everyone to continue to coordinate funding for child care teen mothers in order to keep them in school.

Linda Kohn, Chester County Intermediate Unit

The failure of the Local Management Agency is not a result of any lack of competence or diligence on the board or their staff, but rather because of basic flaws in the whole concept.

Arnold Sulby, Executive Director,
Associated Day Care Services, Philadelphia

The state of education and child care in Pennsylvania is in desperate need of revision and funding.

Melanie Roberts, Parent, Philadelphia

I'm here to advocate that the government, communities, and businesses form a vital partnership in order to be able to deliver high quality and affordable child care to our future citizens.

Theresa Hoopes, Shared Medical Systems

It is imperative that the public dollars be directed to secure an adequate supply of child care in communities without the economic base to support quality care.

Etheria Brown,
Day Care Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania

There are always going to be rules placed on the distribution of public funds. There just aren't enough of them (the funds) to meet the needs.

T. K. Smith, Consultant to
Department of Public Welfare on
Creation of Local Management Agency system

The challenge is to use a mix of funding to develop a system that meets the needs of low income and middle income families.

Norman S. Finkel, Executive Director,
Federation Day Care Services, Philadelphia

When it comes to child care it's a "mission impossible" because one has to be employed or in a training program to qualify for subsidized child care, meaning it makes it difficult for one to search for employment...without child care.

Valerie Purnell, Parent, Philadelphia

I would agree that the current system has its strengths and weaknesses. I think there will continue to be an increased need for day care services, and there will be an increased parental awareness about quality day care.

State Representative Dennis M. O'Brien, District 169

I would like to see a change in regulations; the problem with transferring to Montgomery County is that those are Bucks County dollars. Why, if one is eligible in Bucks County can't one receive care in Montgomery County? It makes no sense to me; a lot of people live right on the County line, their closest and best day care might be right across the street but technically because geographically that's where they live somehow they have to apply in one county, but can't get service in another when it's all the same pool of money.

Gregory Gore, Executive Director,
Apple Day Care (Bucks County Local Management Agency)

I was told that the subsidized care would not transfer over to Montgomery County, I was able, though, to keep Katie in the day care center in Bucks County and keep the funds for her there.

Bill Breish, Parent, Bucks and Montgomery Counties

Until a dedicated stable funding base is provided for early childhood education as it is for the rest of the education system, child care givers will rely on the unreliable; that is, the capricious nature of federal and state funding.

Sue Camp, Program Director, The Partnership Group

Each government body that has control over child care funding must closely scrutinize excessive administrative costs. These costs often grab money that could go to serve more families in need of these essential services. Coordination with other government agencies may be possible, but they should be very closely examined to assure that the dollars are being spent on the services. Our children should always be placed above any political agenda. Their future is much too important!

Debbie Thomas, Member, Colwyn Borough Council, Delaware County

Funding mechanisms must be designed to allow providers who serve low income families to plan budgets and anticipate revenue.

Pat Schogel, Director, The Lighthouse, Philadelphia

ACCESSIBILITY FOR PARENTS

Need for resource and referral services

At present, Child Care Choices mirrors the fragmentation that exists in the delivery of child care services. There is no system and we desperately need one. Parents of all income levels and in all geographic areas of our region need access to quality and affordable child care. A reasonably funded child care resource and referral service can provide an essential link between parents and providers. Only some have access to our referral system (DPA clients in SPOC, Title XX, & employees of 60 corporations). A resource and referral system can assess community needs and aid in development of a comprehensive child care delivery system.

Yvonne Ellison, Program Developer, Child Care Choices

I had to turn down a high paying position because I had no care for my children. I'm on the waiting list at FIND. (Families in Need of Day Care/Philadelphia County Local Management Agency).

Sondra Jackson, Parent, Philadelphia

There is no real choice when parents fail to understand their options.

Denise Dowell, Director, Restoration Nursery School, Philadelphia

A resource and referral service for child care is desperately needed. The state must ensure that families can access services in their neighborhood.

Pat Schogel, Director, The Lighthouse, Philadelphia

Statistics from the Hunting Park Community Development Corporation's job development program over a seven-year period indicate that fully 60 percent of its applicants who are unable to accept employment or job training opportunities list lack of affordable, accessible child care as a primary reason.

Nilda Cotto, Family Day Care Provider,
Hunting Park Community Development Corporation, Philadelphia

What do I do for coverage? I keep him home, or I take him to work with me.

Carmen Labrun, Parent, Philadelphia

I do know that the school day will probably last until about 3 o'clock and my day lasts longer than that at work and so does my husband's. And so I have been going through for the last couple of months a very long process of trying to identify the child care options that exist for us (with a special needs child). Some schools apparently do have after school programs in Montgomery County.

Judith Hill, Parent, Montgomery County

My son is starting Kindergarten and to find subsidized child care for him for before school was extremely difficult. I just got a note this evening that said we would be put on the waiting list for the Bucks County summer program and to look for alternative measures.

Bill Breish, Parent, Bucks and Montgomery Counties

Resource and referral is one of the few services that can be made available to all families without regard to income level of other eligibility requirements. Referral counselors help parents to become quality conscious and well-informed consumers through personalized guidance on how to find day care that is best suited to their children.

Sue Camp, Program Director, The Partnership Group

MODERATOR AND PANELISTS

PHILADELPHIA FORUM
December 6, 1990

Moderator:

Rica Duffus, Reporter, KYW Newsradio

Panelists:

Fred Citron
Executive Director, Day Care Association of Montgomery County, Inc.
DVCCC Board Member

Happy Fernandez
Professor, School of Social Administration, Temple University
DVCCC Board Member

Christine James-Brown
Vice President, Fund Distribution & Community Problem Solving
United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania

John Lavin
United Food & Commercial Workers, Local 1776

Wayne G. LeSage
Business Manager, ARCO Chemical Company
DVCCC Board Member

Edwin S. Miller
President, Delaware Valley Association for The Education of Young Children
DVCCC Board Member

Constance P. Smith
Student, School of Social Administration, Temple University
Chair, Black Caucus
DVCCC Board Member

TESTIFIERS

PHILADELPHIA FORUM
December 6, 1990
(Arranged in alphabetical order)

Sister Marie Bambrick	Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Etheria Brown	Day Care Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Timothy Brown	Parent
Martina Chavis	Child Care Center Director, representing Robert Sorrell, President, The Urban League of Philadelphia
Morraye Coleman	Parent
Nilda Cotto	Family Day Care Provider, Hunting Park Community Development Corporation
Anthony Diodati	Assistant Executive Director, Associated Day Care Services, Inc.
Denise Dowell	Director, Restoration Nursery School
Yvonne Ellison	Program Developer, Child Care Choices
Gloria Falotico	Teacher, Franklin Day Nursery Center
Reverend Richard Fernandez	Minister, United Church of Christ
The Honorable Vincent Hughes	State Representative, District 190
Sondra Jackson	Parent
Marylou Jovinelli	Parent
Linda Katz	Director, Children's Literacy Initiative
Carmen Labrun	Parent
Norma Latham	Street Outreach Program, Maternity Care Coalition

Joyce Lake	Parent
C. Gayle Lawrence	Day Care Administrator, Comprehensive Day Care Program, Chester County Children & Youth Services
Arthur Lipschutz, M.D.	Pediatrician
Donna Maxwell	Owner/Director, Evergreen Child Development Center
Sharon Easterling Morton	Director, Preschool Project
Valerie Purnell	Parent
Ernestine B. Redd	Director, Comprehensive Day Care Program, Philadelphia School District
Luis Rivera	Former teacher, The Lighthouse representing Pat Schogel, Director, The Lighthouse
Melanie Roberts	Parent
Michelle Siegfried	Parent
T. K. Smith	Consultant to Department of Public Welfare on creation of Local Management Agency
System	
Arnold Sulby	Executive Director, Associated Day Care Services
The Honorable Curtis Thomas	State Representative, District 181
Carol F. Weisel	Executive Director, Room to Grow Child Care Centers
Connie Whitson	Executive Director, Montgomery County Office of Child Day Care Services
Shelley Yanoff	Director, Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth

MODERATOR AND PANELISTS

BUCKS/MONTGOMERY FORUM
February 21, 1991

Moderator:

Jay Lloyd, Suburban Bureau Chief, KYW Newsradio

Panelists:

Bonnie M. Berthold
Owner/Director, Wooly Bear Day Care School
DVCCC Board Member

Timothy Brown
Parent
Bucks County Child Care Activist

Linda T. Franklin
Administrative Assistant to State Senator James C. Greenwood
DVCCC Board Member

Barbara McCabe
Associate Manager, Compensation and Administration, Merck & Co., Inc.
DVCCC Board Member

Connie R. Whitson
Executive Director, Montgomery County Office of Child Day Care Services
DVCCC Board Member

TESTIFIERS

BUCKS/MONTGOMERY FORUM
February 21, 1991
(Arranged in alphabetical order)

Bette Ann Binstead	Co-Chair, Child Care Study, League of Women Voters of Lower Merion/Narberth
Bill Breish	Parent
Sue Camp	Program Director, The Partnership Group
Stacy Cossaboon	Student, Montgomery County Community College
Norman S. Finkel	Executive Director, Federation Day Care Services
Gregory Gore	Executive Director, Apple Child Care Services
Robert Gundling	Family Service Director, Main Line YMCA
Jill Hassinger	Children's Program Coordinator, Laurel House
Judith Hill	Parent
Janice Janthor	Parent
Connie B. Karasow	Executive Director, Libertae, Inc.
Dr. Jean Lana	Assistant to State Representative Ellen Harley, District 149
The Honorable John Lawless	State Representative, District 150
Debbie Levin	Professor & Coordinator, Early Childhood Education Student Placements, Montgomery County Community College

Donna Maxwell	Owner/Director, Evergreen Child Development
Grace Montemayor	Board of Directors and Secretary, Interfaith of Ambler
Jane Pescow	School Age Program Supervisor, Federation Day Care Services
Michelle Queenan	Parent
Pattijo Schaffer	Director, Union Fidelity Child Development Center
Sarah Syen	President, Day Care Association of Montgomery County, Inc.
Paulette Vincent	Parent

MODERATOR AND PANELISTS

CHESTER/DELAWARE FORUM
May 8, 1991

Moderator:

David J. Brooman, Esq., Partner,
Cohen, Shapiro, Polisher, Shiekman & Cohen,
DVCCC Board Member

Panelists:

James C. Bruce
Director, Chester County Department of Human Services

Sue Anne Grier
Director, Subsidized Day Care, Delaware County Department of Human Resources
DVCCC Board Member

C. Gayle Lawrence
Day Care Administrator, Chester County Children and Youth Services
DVCCC Board Member

Bonnie Scarborough
Director, Media Child Development Center

TESTIFIERS

CHESTER/DELAWARE FORUM
May 8, 1991
(Arranged in alphabetical order)

Kim Brown	Family Day Care Provider
Linda Carpenter	Director, Tick Tock Day Care Center
Katie Cash	Parent
John C. Fekety, Esq.	Parent
Theresa Hoopes	Shared Medical Systems
Linda Kohn	Chester County Intermediate Unit
Zachary Paul Kramer	Director, Children's Education Center
Robin Lloyd	President, Pennsylvania Early Childhood Educators Association
Deborah McConnell	Parent
Bruce McKelvy	Vice President, Human Resources, Harleysville Insurance Co.
Ben Quintana	Intake Worker, Comprehensive Day Care Program, Chester County Children & Youth Services
Caridad Rivera	Parent
Barbara Sivek	Assistant to Vice Chairman, Shared Medical Systems
Ethel Smiley	Director, Freedom House Child Care
Constance Smith	Parent
Penni Starer	Director, Kehillah Early Learning Center
Patricia Stoughton	Director, West Chester Area Day Care Center
Debbie Thomas	Member, Colwyn Borough Council
Caryl Tlapa	Parent
James Walsh	President, Great Valley Day Care Association

WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUBMITTED

Susan S. Aronson, M.D.	American Academy of Pediatrics
Elizabeth Milder Beh	Advisor to the Governor on Child Care Policy
Eileen DiFranco, R.N.	School Nurse
Norman S. Finkel.	Executive Director, Federation Day Care Services
Sue Anne Grier	Director, Delaware County Local Management Agency
The Honorable Dennis M. O'Brien	State Representative District 169
William Thomas	Assistant Director, Philadelphia Parent Child Center

GEOGRAPHIC INDEX OF TESTIFIERS

Regional

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Etheria Brown	Day Care Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Sue Camp	Program Director, The Partnership Group
Yvonne Ellison	Program Developer, Child Care Choices
Reverend Richard Fernandez	Minister, United Church of Christ
Norman Finkel	Executive Director, Federation Day Care Services
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T.K. Smith	Consultant to Department of Public Welfare on creation of Local Management Agency System
Shelley Yanoff	Director, Philadelphia Citizens for Children and Youth

From Bucks County

Bill Breish	Parent
Timothy Brown	Child Care Activist and Parent
Gregory Gore	Executive Director, Apple Child Care Services (Bucks County Local Management Agency)
Janice Janthor	Parent

Donna Maxwell	Owner/Director, Evergreen Child Development Center
Pattijo Schaffer	Director, Union Fidelity Child Development Center

From Chester County

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Barbara Sivek	Assistant to Vice Chairman, Shared Medical Systems
Patricia Stoughton	Director, West Chester Area Day Care Center
James Walsh	President, Great Valley Day Care Association

From Delaware County

John C. Fekety, Esq.	Parent
Marylou Jovinelli	Parent
Zachary Paul Kramer	Director, Children's Education Center

Ethel Smiley	Director, Freedom House Child Care
Constance Smith	Parent
Penni Starer	Director, Kehillah Early Learning Center
Debbie Thomas	Member, Colwyn Borough Council
Caryl Tlapa	Parent
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From Montgomery County

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Bruce McKelvy	Vice President, Human Resources Harleysville Insurance Co.
Grace Montemayor	Board of Directors and Secretary, Interfaith of Ambler
Michelle Queenan	Parent
Michelle Siegfried	Parent
Sarah Syen	President, Day Care Association of Montgomery County, Inc.
Paulette Vincent	Parent
Connie R. Whitson	Executive Director, Montgomery County Office of Child Day Care Services

From Philadelphia County

Martina Chavis	Child Care Center Director, representing Robert Sorrell, President, The Urban League
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Luis Rivera	Former Teacher, The Lighthouse, representing Pat Schogel, Director, The Lighthouse
Melanie Roberts	Parent
Arnold Sulby	Executive Director, Associated Day Care Services
The Honorable Curtis Thomas	State Representative, District 181

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